

REMARKS

In the Outstanding Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are amended. Claims 3, 8, 13 and 18 are cancelled. New claims 21-24 are added. After entry of the amendments herein, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17, and 19-24 are pending in the application. The basis for the amendments may be found throughout the specification and drawings of the original application. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the Outstanding Action.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 1, 6, 11, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,650,609 to Omori et al (hereinafter Omori). Note that the following discussions are submitted based on the amended claims.

Referring to the Examiner's drawing, Omori shows a stopper formed on the panel (60). However, the present invention provides a stopper connected to the front edge of the housing. Those skilled in the art understand that the panel, typically made by plastic material via injection molding, is not strong enough to block the cracked pieces of the disc. In contrast to the teaching of Omori, the present invention provides a housing having a stopper, e.g. a metal stopper, that is strong enough to block the cracked disc. Thus, Omori fails to show "a housing having a stopper ... the housing being connected to the front edge and extending downward from the front edge for blocking a cracked disc."

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the amended claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 satisfy the patentability requirement and are allowable.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 20 respectively depend directly or indirectly on allowable claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and include further features. Therefore the above claims are allowable.


New added claims 21-24 respectively depend directly on allowable claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and further include a plurality of protrusions and a plurality of stoppers alternately arranged. Therefore the above claims are additionally allowable.

CONCLUSIONS

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17, and 19-24 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 2004

By: 
Cynthia L. Pillote
Reg. No. 42,999

SNELL & WILMER, L.L.P.

One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2202
Phone: (602) 382-6296
Fax: (602) 382-6070
cpillote@swlaw.com